

THE CHINESE ARMY

COMPARISON OF THE CELESTIAL SOLDIERS
WITH THOSE OF FRANCE.

A Missionary's View of the Franco-Chinese War—Mighty Influence of an Ancestor's Bones Upon a Chinaman—Saving the Sacred Animals' Backbone.

With manipulated telegraphic dispatches and diplomats whose lips are sealed the Chinese-French question is perhaps as little understood by even the closest reader as if the difficulty was between two interior tribes of uncivilized people, instead of being an almost unprecedented state of things existing between two of the great nations of the world. The visit to this city of Rev. B. C. Henry, after a absence in Canton as a missionary for eleven years, was taken advantage of yesterday by a reporter for **THE REPUBLICAN** to make some inquiries as to the situation about that country, and especially its present difficulty with France.

"In the Tonquin affair," he said, "France was coerced to be technically right, but all diplomatic relations between the two countries were severed. A treaty was arranged by the terms of which the Chinese troops were to be withdrawn, as were those of France. When this was being accomplished the Chinese attacked the French troops at Louson. This was, of course, all wrong, but the French peremptory demand for indemnity and the subsequent attacks upon the Chinese, were, in my opinion, as totally unjustifiable. No war has been declared and the treaties are still in full force, the ministers of each country remaining at their respective posts in the other. The only danger to be feared is on the irregular warfare interfere with the commerce of the world, and endanger the lives and property of all foreigners in the country, as well as the merchants and other residents."

"How is China prepared for war?"

"Poorly. Her militia is more dangerous to the law-abiding people, and especially foreigners, than the French troops. China is capable of doing more damage in this direction than as against the French troops. In some of the provinces the Chinese are said to be able to maintain a certain number of troops, and when any of these are wanted a requisition is sent for them, and the general is paid for the number supplied. They are very poor soldiers, but they are so much too busily engaged in selecting graves for their fathers to fight effectively."

"What does that mean?"

"It means that the Chinese worship and are controlled in every way by their ancestors. The choice of a burying place for a deceased father is a matter of grave concern. The site is selected for luck, and the selection is made by geomancers, or astrologers, or as the Chinese call them, 'professors of geography,' are called in. The relation of the spot to the water courses and contour of the surrounding country is carefully studied and considered, and then the planets are

in the shape of a horseshoe, or rather of the Greek letter 'omega.' The coffin must be made of a peculiar kind of wood that the insects attack the bones of the father of the shipowner; his vessel will sink. Should a man lose a large sum in business he must die in the same way, and lie in the grave, and if he finds a land mine in the neighborhood, or any disturbance of the earth, the mine is simply accounted for. He should therefore be careful not to go to the grave to lay the blame to it. Three souls are granted that one of the fathers of three souls is doing the mischief. One soul is supposed to be in the grave, another in the structure, and the third in the last in hades. Each must be duly propitiated. A son will sometimes present a coffin to his father, and this is considered a great honor. The father is then propitiated by the parent, who knows that his future is safe."

What is the real reason that such a superstition has become so much more common in China with telegraphs and railroads?

"The superstitions of the people, who think that the stretching of a wire over the ground will destroy the spirit of the dead. The cutting of the telegraph wires of the country necessary in laying rail-

The backbone of the symbolical drama might be injured. They think the hills and mountains are caused by the vertebrae of the dragon. The dragon is the emperor in some degree with the eagle in this country. The only way to introduce improvements into that country is make the people more intelligent. "Are there any signs of enlightenment?"

"The awakening of intelligence is indicated by the increased sale of books of science and history. There is no system of education, but schools exist in every village. The native classes are taught with an astorizing thoroughness. I am endeavoring to awaken interest enough in this country to establish one in Canton, when there is a pressing demand for one."

The Case of Axel Ames, Jr.

United States circuit court, to-day, gave a decision in the Hazel Ames pension case, deciding that eleven counts of the indictment, alleging that defendant accepted an illegal fee while acting as agent, are bad, and that defendant is not required to answer them. Eight counts relating to the revised statement of assets provided for the pension of every person holding any place of trust or profit under the government who assisted in the prosecution of a fraudulent claim against the government, are maintained. The government holds that they are sustained. Defendant's demurrer to the latter counts is overruled, and Ames will probably be called for trial at an early day.

John McCullough in Philadelphia
PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21.—John M.

day from New York. To a reporter, who met him on the street, he said: "I never felt better in all my life. My health is improving. I've only been in the city one minute, and I'm going back in one day." He was wearing a heavy overcoat and a fur hat, and was hurrying during the winter, and I don't know over to make how arrangements. He wanted to hear how Hiss had made out after his sentence. He said he was a little depressed, he added, "and I may get to be a little depressed," he added. "I think they are a few of my friends." Then he went in to a rooming house, and walked on as if alone. When he reached the Continental Hotel, he told the reporter, and wished him good-by.

A Street Car Runaway.
PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 21.—This morning while a car of the Citizens' Passenger railway was going down Butler street the brake became unmanageable and the car ran down the street.

frighful speed. When it reached Thirteenth street the car jumped the track and ran along the sidewalk for a block, while the horses fell and the car was forced to stop of them, injuring two so badly that both were killed to terminate their suffering. The two were swept off the pavement at the time and all of them were more or less bruised, two of them—Thompson and Roller Maibay—quite seriously.

